OBITUARY

WILLIAM HENRY ECCLES

William Henry Eccles, D.SC., F.R.S., PAST-PRESIDENT (M 1913), died on the 29th April 1966 at the age of 90. After graduating from London University in 1898 as a B.SC. with first class honours, he joined Marconi's laboratory, where he became interested in some of the scientific problems of wireless telegraphy that were to occupy his attention for many years. He investigated in some detail the crystal detector, and, in 1912, many years before the existence of the ionosphere was demonstrated by Appleton, he expanded the Heaviside theory of the propagation of wireless waves around the curvature of the Earth by reflection in the upper atmosphere. In 1916, he became Professor of Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering at the City & Guilds Technical College, Finsbury, where he continued in active research. He was vice-chairman of the Imperial Wireless Telegraphy Committee, and played an important part in the design of the high-power long-wave Post Office station at Rugby. In 1921 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Eccles was a member of the IEE Council from 1919 onwards and was President in 1926–27. He was also a past-president of the Physical Society and of the Institute of Physics. He was the author of 'Continuous wave wireless telegraphy' and 'Wireless telegraphy and telephony' and various scientific papers, three of which appeared in the *Journal*. Keenly interested in the activities of the radio amateur, he was a founder member of the Radio Society of Great Britain, and was its president in 1923–24.

R. L. S.-R.